AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original)   A method of rendering text in an image forming device comprising:

    a.   providing a user interface for entering a font sharpening threshold by a user;

    b.   receiving a user-defined font sharpening threshold input by a user from said user interface

    c.   selecting a halftone screen for text based on text size and a user defined font sharpening threshold; and

    d.   rendering the text with the selected halftone screen.

2. (Original)   The method of claim 1 wherein selecting a halftone screen for text based on text size and a user defined font sharpening threshold comprises comparing the text size to the font sharpening threshold and selecting the halftone screen based on the outcome of the comparison.

3. (Original)   The method of claim 2 wherein selecting the halftone screen based on the outcome of the comparison comprises selecting a halftone screen with a relatively higher halftone frequency when the text size is less than the font sharpening threshold, and selecting a halftone screen with a relatively lower halftone frequency when the text size is greater than the font sharpening threshold.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3 wherein the user interface comprises an operator panel on the image forming device to receive user input.

5. (Currently Amended) A printing system comprising:

    a.   a user interface for entering a font ~~shaprpening~~ <u>sharpening</u> threshold by a user;

    b.   a raster image processor for generating a halftone image, said raster image processor programmed to render text using a halftone screen with a halftone frequency selected based on text size and a user-defined font sharpening threshold input by a user via said user interface; and

    c.   a raster output device operatively connected to the raster image processor to generate a visible output image using the halftone image output by the raster image processor.

6. (Currently Amended) The ~~image output device~~ <u>printing system</u> of ~~claim 6~~ <u>claim 5</u> wherein the user interface comprises an operator panel to receive user input specifying the font sharpening threshold.

7. (Currently Amended) The ~~image output device~~ <u>printing system</u> of ~~claim 6~~ <u>claim 5</u> wherein the raster output device is an electrophotographic print engine.